



The President's Daily Brief



~~18~~ August 1970
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TO THE WHITE HOUSE

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HEREWITH THE PDB OF 30 AUGUST.

MIDDLE EAST

THE EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL WHICH CONCLUDED IN AMMAN FRIDAY PRODUCED ²A FEW SURPRISES. AS EXPECTED, THE COUNCIL -- A PALESTINIAN PARLIAMENTARY BODY DOMINATED BY THE FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS -- FORMALLY REJECTED THE ROGER'S PEACE PROPOSALS. IN ITS MOST CONCRETE ACTION, THE COUNCIL CALLED UPON EGYPT AND SYRIA TO ALLOW UNITS OF THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ARMY NOW UNDER EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN COMMAND TO TRANSFER TO JORDAN. THESE TROOPS - 6000 IN ALL, DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA - WOULD NEARLY DOUBLE THE MANPOWER AVAILABLE TO THE FEDAYEEN. SINCE THE TROOPS WOULD CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO THE FEDAYEEN'S ABILITY TO MAKE TROUBLE DURING THE PEACE TALKS, NEITHER EGYPT NOR SYRIA IS EXPECTED TO AGREE TO THE COUNCIL'S REQUEST.

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THE FIGHTING IN CAMBODIA CONTINUED TO BE LIGHT, BUT ANOTHER CLASH HAS OCCURRED CLOSE TO PHNOM PENH. ON 28 AUGUST, A COMPANY-SIZED COMMUNIST UNIT ATTACKED TWO GOVERNMENT COMPANIES AT THE VILLAGE OF MOAT KRASAS, ONLY FOUR MILES EAST OF PHNOM PENH AND THE CLOSEST TO THE CAPITAL SUCH AN ENEMY FORCE HAS FOUGHT. THE ENEMY ASSAULT WAS DRIVEN BACK WITH THE AID OF INTENSIVE AIR SUPPORT. AT LAST REPORT THE COMMUNISTS HAD PULLED BACK TO THE EAST. PRELIMINARY GOVERNMENT LOSSES ARE LISTED AS THREE KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED.

[REDACTED] THE ENEMY IS EMPLACING 122MM ROCKETS 12-13 MILES NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH, WHICH WOULD PLACE THE CAPITAL JUST OUTSIDE OF RANGE. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PHNOM PENH HAS THUS FAR BEEN FREE OF ENEMY HARASSMENT, ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNISTS CLEARLY HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO MORTAR OR ROCKET IT WITH NO WARNING.

ELSEWHERE, THE ONLY MAJOR ACTION WAS AT THE GARRISON TOWN OF SRANG, 30 MILES SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, WHERE A GOVERNMENT BATTALION REPULSED AN ATTACK BY AN ESTIMATED 300 COMMUNIST TROOPS. SPORADIC HARASSING FIRE CONTINUES. MEANWHILE, THE COMMUNISTS AMBUSHED A GOVERNMENT PATROL NEAR THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF PREY VENG KILLING FOUR AND WOUNDING THIRTEEN.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL WEEKS THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG THOM RECEIVED NO HARASSING FIRE. [REDACTED]

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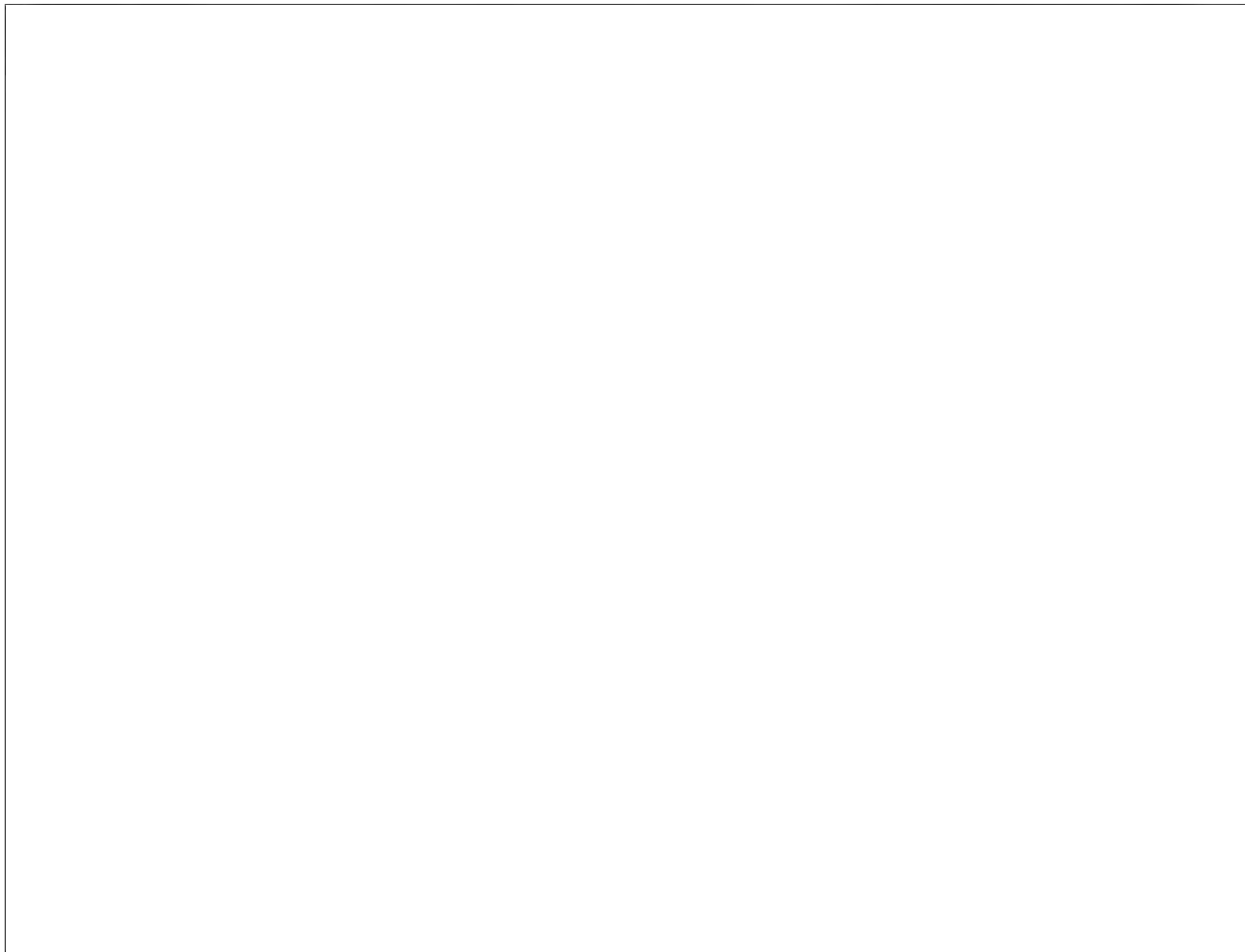
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~~CAMBODIA: The Military Situation~~

~~The fighting in Cambodia~~ ^{to be} ~~increased only slightly over the unusually~~ ^{continued light, but another clash has occurred close to Phnom Penh.} ~~low level of activity.~~ ^{on 28 August,} ~~reported the previous day.~~ A company-sized Communist unit ^{on 28 August,} attacked two government companies at the village of Moat Krasas, only four miles east of Phnom Penh and the closest to the capital such an enemy force has fought. The enemy assault was driven back with the aid of intensive air support. the Communists had pulled back to the east.

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Elsewhere, the only major action ^{was at} ~~reported occurred~~ at the garrison town of Srang, 30 miles southwest of Phnom Penh, where a government battalion repulsed an attack by an estimated 300 Communist troops. Sporadic harassing fire continues. Meanwhile, the Communists ambushed a government patrol near

 For the first time in several weeks the provincial capital of Kompong Thom

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 received no harassing fire. 

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